

Fair and continued cold tonight. Tomorrow fair.

# The Washington Times

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NUMBER 3902.

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 15, 1905.

PRICE ONE CENT.

## ABANDON HOPE; GIVEN RESPITE

Neither Mrs. Edwards Nor Samuel Greason to Hang Tomorrow for Murder of Woman's Husband.

## BOARD OF PARDONS GRANTS REHEARING IN BOTH CASES

Convincing Arguments Induce Continuance After Brief Deliberation---Four Witnesses Never Examined to Be Produced.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 15.—Neither Samuel Greason nor Mrs. Kate Edwards will be hanged at Reading tomorrow, the date fixed for their execution for the murder of the woman's husband.

Strong arguments were brought to bear for a continuance of the case. These were so convincing that the board of pardons was able to reach a decision to that effect after comparatively short deliberation.

### ARGUMENTS THAT BROUGHT RESPITE.

The reasons given as inducing the action of the board in continuing the cases are:

"In view of the dissent on the part of three justices of the supreme court from the opinion of the court in refusing the petition of Samuel Greason for an order authorizing a new trial in the court of oyer and terminer of Berks county, and in view of the statement of counsel for Greason that they have four witnesses never before examined, whose depositions they desire to take and present to the supreme court for its consideration, the application for a continuance in the Edwards case is granted, and application for a rehearing in the Greason case is granted."

### Petition for Greason.

When the board of pardons met this morning W. H. Sadler and J. H. Rothel presented a petition for a rehearing for Greason.

The petition recites that at the trial Mrs. Edwards swore falsely against Greason; that she was aided in securing commutation of the death sentence if she would testify against Greason, and that he has not had a fair trial and a chance for life.

It was also said that Mrs. Edwards confessed to her spiritual adviser that she had sworn falsely against Greason.

### Pleas for Mrs. Edwards.

Mr. Lentz, her counsel, asked that John H. Rothel be heard, as he wanted to urge a continuance of the Greason case. Mr. Lentz, himself, presented many petitions and letters sent to him in behalf of Mrs. Edwards.

Mr. Rothel pleaded for a rehearing for Greason on the strength of Mrs. Edwards' confession exonerating Greason. A point made was that witnesses' contradiction of the testimony of Mary Edwards, the daughter, corroborated Mrs. Edwards' confession.

After a little more argument the board retired and after deliberating about twenty minutes continued the case of Mrs. Edwards. A rehearing in the Greason case was also granted.

E. D. Drisher told the story of the confession and asked for a continuance of the case.

The death warrants will be withdrawn at once.

**Woman Stunned; Man Laughs at the News**

READING, Pa., Feb. 15.—Mrs. Kate Edwards almost fainted from joy when she heard the news that her case had been continued for a month by the board of pardons.

Samuel Greason laughed out loud when told of the stay of execution.

The relief from the suspense was shared from Warden DeTurk down to the turnkey, and all were happy that the death warrants will be withdrawn at once.

### THE WEATHER REPORT.

The lake region depression of Tuesday morning has advanced to the St. Lawrence valley and diminished somewhat in energy. A second depression has appeared in Manitoba, moving east-southeast. An area of high pressure of considerable extent covers the Mississippi valley, and has advanced from the Dakotas since Tuesday morning.

The plateau high has not altered its position nor changed in intensity during the last twenty-four hours.

There has been no precipitation of consequence in any part of the country, except that light snow has fallen from the middle Mississippi valley eastward to the upper Ohio valley and eastern New York.

The temperature has risen in eastern and southern districts, and there has been a marked fall in Iowa, where temperatures are fourteen degrees to sixteen degrees below zero this morning.

Generally fair weather will continue in all parts of the Washington forecast district tonight and Thursday, except that snow is probable along the lower lakes.

The temperature will not change materially, except that warmer weather is probable Thursday in the upper Ohio valley and lower lake region.

### TEMPERATURE.

9 a. m.	19
12 noon	20
3 p. m.	27
6 p. m.	26

DOWN TOWN.  
(Registered Affleck's Standard Thermometer.)

9 a. m.	20
12 noon	26
3 p. m.	26
6 p. m.	26

### THE SUN.

Sun rises today.....5:36  
Sun sets tomorrow.....6:51

### TIDE TABLE.

High tide today.....4:20 p. m.  
Low tide today.....11:15 a. m.  
High tide tomorrow.....4:30 a. m.  
Low tide tomorrow.....11:21 a. m.

## FRANK RAISINGER PAYS THE PENALTY FOR WIFE MURDER

Rope Broke, But His Death Was Instantaneous.

## SORRY FOR HIS CRIME

"Oh, Why Did I Kill the Dear Girl!" He Exclaimed.

BRIDGETON, N. J., Feb. 15.—At 9:57 this morning, Frank Raisingier paid the penalty, with death on the gallows, for the brutal murder of his pretty young wife on the little farm near Shiloh, October 18.

It was just 9:45 when Sheriff Diamant with his jury proceeded down the long corridor to the condemned man's cell, and said:

"Frank, you will now make ready for the death march."

After reading the death warrant he told him he would now have the opportunity to say anything on the stand.

Turning to his spiritual adviser, the Rev. Dr. Stultz, who has been his constant attendant, Raisingier said:

"What I told you and my father about the killing of my wife is the truth. Oh, why did I kill the dear girl? I will soon be with her, though; I am prepared to meet my God. The verdict was the only one that could be given. I hold no malice toward anyone."

### His Last Words.

These were the prisoner's last words on earth. The death march was started. Raisingier, led by Constables Elmer Simpkins and Robert Ayres, was followed closely by the Rev. Dr. Stultz and the Rev. John H. Boswell, who read prayers all the way to the gallows.

Then came the sheriff followed by the jurors appointed by the court to witness the execution.

They proceeded down the corridor to the rear of the jail.

Raisingier, between his two guards, and followed by the sheriff, ascended the scaffold with a steady but rather faint tread and took his place on the trapdoor. The guards, said Sheriff Diamant immediately placed the nose around his neck, pulled down the cap over his head and pulled the lever.

### Body Dropped With Crash.

With a crash the body dropped, breaking the rope, the body rebounding, the head striking the crossbeam of the scaffold. The spectators were horrified.

Death is believed, however, to have been instantaneous. Subsequent examination indicated that Raisingier's neck had been broken by the fall. Four men ran up the scaffold steps and grasped the rope at the open trap. They held Raisingier suspended for nine minutes, until the doctors pronounced death positive.

There were one hundred witnesses to the hanging, forty from the inclosure and sixty from windows in the jail and from the street. Raisingier's last words, Rev. Dr. Stultz, told him yesterday morning for the first time that there was to be a pardon presented before the court of pardons for his reprieve.

The change in Raisingier's countenance was wonderful, the thought of his having seemed to make another man of him, and he was more cheerful than he had been since his confinement.

### Arose Haggard and Weary.

But as the sun went down and night dawned and no tidings came, he began to grow restless.

He slept but little last night, and rose early this morning haggard and weary.

He dressed and commenced to read his Bible immediately. He ordered a hearty breakfast of eggs, fried potatoes, sausage, bread, and coffee, but ate very little of it, still seeming to be unusually restless.

The Rev. Dr. Stultz and the Rev. John Boswell remained with him, singing and praying until ten minutes. It seemed to comfort him, and he soon recovered his one-time stolid manner. He went bravely to his death.

**Raisingier, in Sudden Anger, Murdered His Young Wife**

The crime for which Raisingier today paid the penalty was peculiarly brutal and had attendant circumstances such as can hardly be imagined by even those thoroughly familiar with the history of criminology.

On the afternoon of October 18 last, Mrs. Raisingier, who had been married but three years previously, to Frank Raisingier, a young farmer, was found dead on the floor of her kitchen with a gaping wound in her left side just above the heart. Two shots had been fired into her body at close range, both bullets entering at the same spot.

Her husband stood by her side when Everett Sheppard, a twelve-year-old boy, entered the kitchen after hearing the shots. The gun which belonged to Raisingier was lying across Mrs. Raisingier's arm and gave the appearance of suicide.

### Not Suspected at First.

At first no suspicion was directed toward the husband as the coroner's physician's examination disclosed the fact that the woman had been maltreated before she had been shot, giving color to the belief that her murderer had been some one who had first attempted to assault her. Her body was bruised and her clothes torn.

Raisingier, when questioned as to his knowledge of the affair, said he had been in the barn with his wife, when she suddenly left him and went to the house to attend to her household duties. He heard her singing about half an hour he heard a muffled noise as though a door had slammed but thought nothing of it at

### (Continued on Second Page.)

## JOHN FRANK HAMBY



PAINTER WHO FELL TO HIS DEATH.

The Police Are Seeking to Ascertain Whether Accident or Design Is Responsible for the Loss of His Life.

## VESTIBULE BILL IS AGREED UPON

District Commissioners to Make Favorable Report.

## ONLY CHANGE IS SLIGHT

General Harries, Opposed to Legislation, Promises Completion of Vestibuling in 1908.

The District Commissioners this afternoon agreed to make a favorable report tomorrow on Senator Gallinger's vestibule bill with one amendment.

The only feature of the proposed bill which they desire to change is the date named by which the railway companies are to provide vestibules for all their cars. They propose to substitute December 1 for October 1.

The Washington Railway and Electric Company not only opposes the proposed legislation but does not promise to retire all its old rolling stock in favor of new vestibuled cars before the year 1908.

This is the substance of a letter received today by Engineer Commissioner Riddle from George H. Harries, vice president of the company, in reply to Colonel Biddle's request for an expression of opinion on the subject from the street railway companies of the District.

### Statement of General Harries.

The statement by General Harries is similar in tone to his interview with a representative of The Times last Saturday. He announces that his company does not contemplate putting vestibules on cars at present or in the near future.

He does not intend to construct vestibules at all, in fact. As new cars are bought or built, they will include vestibules, but no protection will be furnished the motormen on the present cars until these cars are superseded by new rolling stock.

General Harries' letter is as follows: "Replying to your favor of the 16th instant requesting my views on Senate bill 712, 'requiring street railway companies in the District of Columbia to equip their cars with vestibules,' let me say that we have been engaged in that work for four years past.

"At this time all of our suburban cars are vestibuled and we have adopted as our standard car the vestibule car now operated between the Capitol and Mount Pleasant and on the H street line.

### Will Complete Work in 1908.

"Continuing the standardization of our rolling stock we expect to equip the Eleventh street line with standard cars during the present year. F street, Ninth street, and North Capitol street will follow, so that we reasonably expect to complete the work of retiring our old rolling stock by the year 1908.

"There is nothing in our plans looking to the putting of vestibules on cars which are so soon to be succeeded by the standard vehicle. So far as I can see there is no necessity for vestibule legislation for we are steadily carrying out the plans we adopted long before any crusade on this subject had local existence."

**SEEK AN INJUNCTION AGAINST THE SMOKE**

Suit Filed to Restrain Emissions From Purity Ice Company's Chimneys.

Flora M. Gill, May B. Miller, Charles H. Krey, and Thomas Martin, by their attorneys, Lester & Price, today filed suit in the Equity Court against the Purity Ice Company, seeking to restrain the company from permitting smoke to escape from its smokestack in such a manner as to injure the complainants' property.

The bill is accompanied by more than two dozen affidavits, most all of which are made by residents in the immediate neighborhood, and who say they have suffered from the inconveniences and damage alleged in the bill. They say soot frequently covers their houses, doorways, windows, and porches with a greasy black substance.

A letter from the Smoke Inspector accompanies the bill, and states that during the year 1904 forty-six observations of the smokestack connected with the Purity Ice Company's plant were made, and thirty-five violations of law noted, sixteen of which were of such a character as to warrant prosecution in the Police Court; that in one of such prosecutions John E. McGraw, the manager of the defendant company, was fined \$10, and in the other sixteen cases forfeited coal to that amount.

Justice Anderson issued a rule against the defendant requiring it to show cause February 24 why the petition should not be granted.

**SKELETON OF DODO IN NATIONAL MUSEUM**

The only dodo in the United States, or rather his or her skeleton, is in the National Museum. It arrived Monday from Europe, and is now the chief ornament on the mantelpiece of Dr. True.

The dodo was purchased from an European dealer in answer to a call for offers of something unusual for the Lewis and Clark Exposition. The dodo inhabited Reunion Island and the Isle of France in the Indian ocean, as late as the thirteenth century.

The bird had no enemies and lost the powers of defense and flight it fell an easy prey to the white man.

## SNOW LAW GOES TO HIGHER COURT

Miscellaneous Coughlan Takes an Appeal.

## ATTACKS LAW'S VALIDITY

Defendant Contends That Sidewalks Are Government or District Property.

Judge Scott this morning signed a bill of exception to the proceedings against Mrs. Cecelia Coughlan, charged with a violation of the snow ordinance. The case will now, within the next ten days, be taken before the Court of Appeals, where it will be decided whether or not the District Government has a right to impose fines on residents for failure to remove the snow from the sidewalks in front of their homes.

Ever since the new ordinance went into effect, there have been muttered doubts on all sides as to the validity of the law, but Mrs. Coughlan is the first to take active steps to bring the question to test.

### Sidewalks Public Property.

It is the contention of the defendant that the sidewalks are Government or District property, and that the residents of the city are in no sense responsible for their condition.

It is argued that no resident is held responsible for the condition of the streets, whether they be covered with snow or clean; torn up or unevenly paved. "Why then," it is asked, "should one be held responsible for the sidewalk merely because it happens to be in front of one's house?"

It is the opinion of the defendant that the District Commissioners had no right to enact such a law, and that its enforcement, and the imposition of fines for failure to comply with its demands, is unwarranted.

The case is being watched with great interest both by the District officials and by property owners.

**WAS SHADOWED**

Warned by a Stranger Not to Meet Engagement With Woman Who Wrote Him Letter.

**CHEMIST LYNCH TRIES TO FIND WHAT CAUSED ROPE TO BREAK**

Has Not Yet Corroborated Firm Conviction of Friends and Officers That It Was Weakened by Acid.

"Two weeks ago my uncle received an anonymous letter telling him to meet a person or several persons at a place downtown, and he was prevented from keeping the engagement by a man who stopped him before he arrived at his destination and informed him that a woman was shadowing him, and it would not be safe for him to go to his intended destination."

**STATEMENTS OF A RELATIVE.**

This was the statement made to a representative of The Times today by Mary Shank, a niece of Frank Hamby, the twenty-six-year-old painter who fell to his death from a scaffold suspended from the roof of the Cairo apartment, near Sixteenth and Q streets northwest, on Monday morning.

Did Not Live With Wife.

Hamby was married, but it is said did not live with his wife. She, it is said, has not been seen or heard of since his death. The painter was a non-union workman, and lived with his sister, Mrs. Thomas David Shank, in Anacostia.

Mary is next to the oldest of six daughters, and knew a great deal about her uncle's business. He seemed fond of her and talked often to her about his trials and worries.

What the niece says was found in Hamby's vest pocket when his body was searched at the morgue. In it reference was made to the fact that he did not keep an engagement. It is believed that the reason for this was that the man that Miss Shank speaks of prevented him from doing so. Part of the letter follows:

**A Letter From "Kate."**

"My Dear Friend Mr. Hamby: You did not keep your engagement with me for last Sunday, although I expected you and was much put out. Be sure to come tomorrow, as I will be waiting for you. I have a long chat with you. I am engaged to keep the one with you and was disappointed. I am sorry to learn that you had been sick. Give my love to your sisters, as I think they are awfully nice."

**May Have Been Confederate.**

The police are inclined to think that the woman may have been a confederate of persons who sought to harm him and was luring him into a trap. This is the positive belief of the relatives of the dead painter. They know of no friend of his by the name of "Kate," they say, and prior to the receipt of the letter in which the engagement was mentioned they know of no correspondence the uncle of Miss Shank had with the woman.

The niece said her uncle returned earlier than he was expected on the night he started to meet some one. He told the folks at home of what had occurred while on his way to the trusting place.

**"That's Funny," He Said.**

"When my uncle came home that night," said Miss Shank, "he remarked upon the strange happening. 'That is funny,' said my uncle. 'While I was walking near the place a man came up to me and warned me saying, 'Be careful, stranger, you're watched.' My uncle inquired as to who was watching him and the stranger said: 'It's a woman. Don't stop me or she'll see me talking to you.' With that the stranger moved off and uncle concluded that he had not gone to the place of meeting. We did not think seriously of the affair. But the second letter in which some one told him that they were disappointed at his not having kept his engagement aroused our suspicions. He did not pay much attention to the letter."

The discovery of this letter and the statement of the niece sheds a new light on the death of the man, and the police are endeavoring to ferret out the matter and see if the sending of the letter and the making of the engagement were in any way connected with Hamby's death.

**Lynch Applies Test.**

Assistant District Chemist Lynch has the two ends of the rope which broke and caused the man's fall. These were minutely examined at the places supposed to have been tampered with and saturated with acid.

The extreme ends, which looked as though they had come in contact with some corrosive substance, were cut off. Parts of the rope were then put in carbolic acid. From the examination made after the strands were taken out of this fluid it was palpably evident that carbolic acid played no part in the breaking of the rope.

Nitric acid will be used to test the rope this afternoon. The carbolic acid burned the rope black, and it became as brittle as glass when the test was completed. That hydrochloric acid brought about the severance of the rope seems to be the personal opinion of Mr. Lynch, although he has made no official report, and will not do so until thorough tests, covering possibly another entire day, are concluded.

Today the assistant chemist said that Prof. Hird, the head chemist, was not

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**FACTS ABOUT THE ROPE.**

The police say they have ascertained from Hamby's employers that the rope from which the scaffold on the Cairo was suspended was comparatively new, having been purchased about two months ago. It was the usual sized rope used for swinging scaffolds, and was in perfect condition when it came into the possession of the contracting painters.

It had been used on several jobs since it had been purchased and showed no weaknesses. On Saturday afternoon the large end of the rope was cut off with a plank nail so it was taken to

at the office and would not be for several days. Mr. Lynch said that plumbers use hydrochloric acid in the treatment of solder, and it may be that a small pot of this fluid was overturned on the rope while it was coiled on the ground before put into use to swing the scaffold.

Not Cut by Corrosion.

"There's no question about it," said a man who attended the Coroner's inquest at the morgue yesterday and saw the rope. The cornice did not cut that rope. It was tampered with and acid which burned it brittle but not black did the trick. As to how the acid got on the rope, or when the application was made I do not know, but I will vouch for it that no sane man will say that anything but a corrosive substance caused the collapse of that three-quarter inch rope which has been tested and shown to be able to stand a strain of 800 pounds. The scaffold used at the Cairo, with Hamby on it, did not put more than 25 pounds on the rope at the most. The rope was all right on Saturday. Hamby was a careful climber, and had the rope worked over by him. It was not until for he had been painting too long at dizzy heights to run any chances."

**Neivitt Holds Witnesses.**

Coroner Nevitt expressed the opinion yesterday after the inquest and before the verdict of the jury was received, that a corrosive substance brought about the breaking of the rope. He based his testimony which pointed to the supposed fact that some one had applied acid to the rope, Coroner Nevitt deemed it best and safest to hold the witnesses at the morgue until Captain Boardman, chief of detectives, could disprove the charges. But he refused to do so. This was done, and the police investigation will be based upon the statements made by the witnesses at the inquest and interviews that Peck and Pratt had with them.

Captain Boardman said today, "Tinsmen were working on the house with the painters, and they use acid in the treatment of solder. It may be that the acid came in contact with the rope, the breaking of which caused Hamby's death. But I am not a chemist. I am a report of the District Chemist. I considered it best to cut the ends of the rope off and send them to the chemist for examination and understand that his report will be made tomorrow. If he says that the cornice cut it in two that ends the case so far as we are concerned. Should he report that acid was instrumental in causing the rope to part we will proceed and ascertain if possible how the acid got on the rope. If malice played any part in the guilty parties will be brought to justice."

**Talk of Labor Circles.**

The verdict of the Coroner's jury and the testimony adduced at the inquest was the sole topic in labor circles today. Members of the firm by whom Hamby was employed testified in such a positive manner at the inquest that the intimidation that some person "other than a non-union man" had figured in the affair could not be overlooked or disregarded.

"Coupled with the fact that some time ago union men who are sure on Mr. Ernest and his workmen because they do not belong to the union, I think the death of Hamby under these shady circumstances looks suspicious," said one of the employees of Ernest. "Funny that an experienced painter, used to working on scaffolds, should be so knowing how much depended upon the security of the rope would venture out on a scaffold twelve stories from the ground unless he thought his rope was safe, and would not be cut in two by a cornice. That cornice did not do this job, but something that does not belong on a painter's rope when he is dangling between the earth and